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THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

A CHRISTMAS GREETING

Christmas greetings to all our readers far and near! The year has brought us much for which to be thankful, and given us cause for great rejoicing from the fact that thousands of our nurses serving at home and overseas have been safely returned to their homes, and the few remaining in foreign countries are doing so voluntarily, or may hope to be relieved in the very near future.

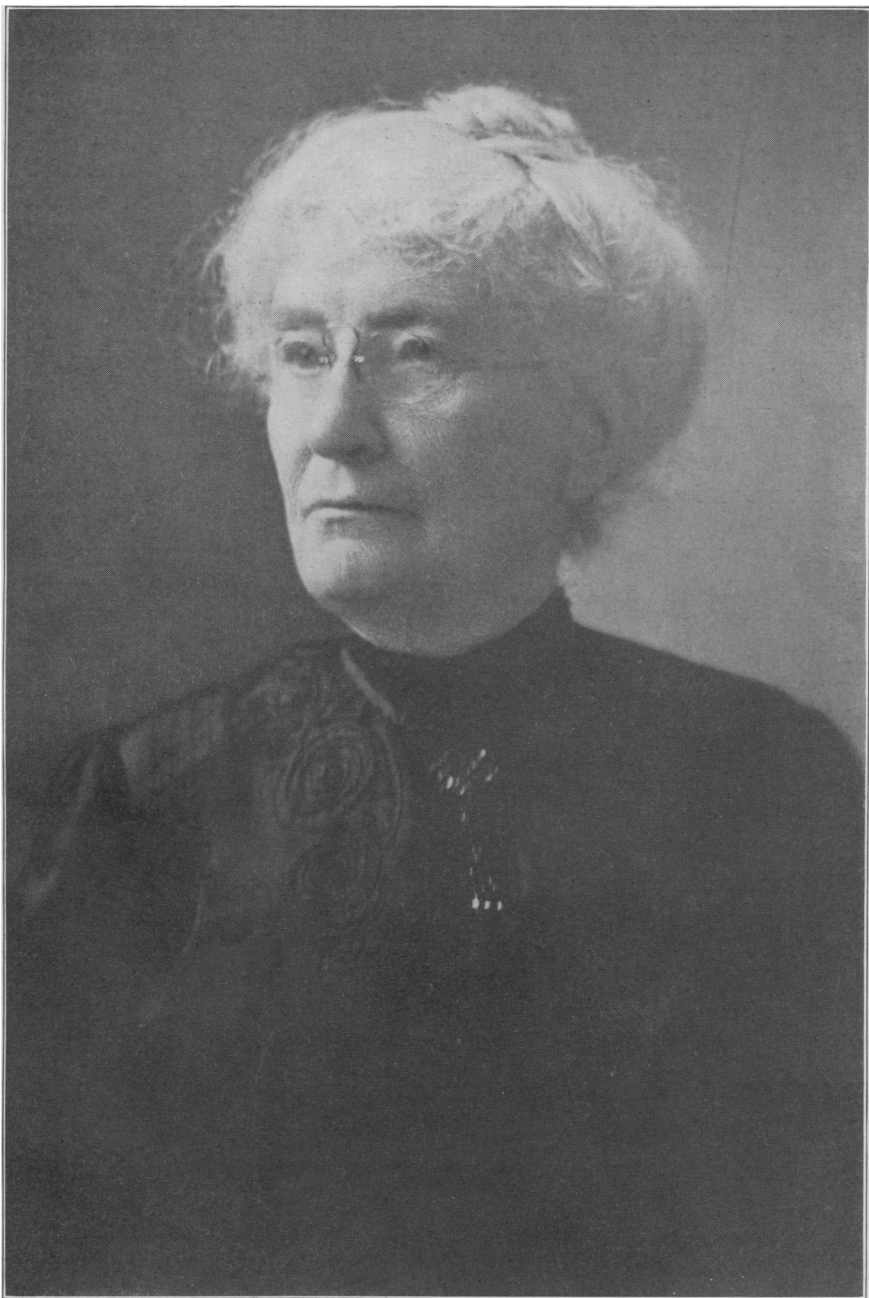
While experiences of the war have not as yet brought to the whole nursing body that recognition which we had a right to expect, it has given to thousands of our members a new experience, an opportunity for a very satisfying kind of service and, with all of the hardships, an opportunity to see new countries, which has been interesting even under the conditions of war.

The Christmas season is ours to devote in a very personal way to our friends, with the usual gifts and interchange of cordial messages. The new year opens with new obligations which we must be prepared to meet in a liberal spirit. A lasting memorial to our dead in France, for the maintenance there of what is known as the Nightingale system of training, to this devastated and war stricken country, is a matter directly before us and if to this, each gives a small amount, it will help to develop quickly the fund that is necessary for this work.

If France had had such a nursing system as exists in England and in this country, our nurses would not have had to be sent over there by thousands, and there would not be to-day those one hundred and one lonely graves in a foreign land. Let us make their sacrifice a lasting benefit to the country which they served.

ALICE FITZGERALD GIVEN AN IMPORTANT POSITION

The Red Cross has announced the appointment of Alice Fitzgerald as Chief Nurse of the American Red Cross Commission for Europe, as Chief Nurse of the League of Red Cross Societies. It will be



Mary E. P. Davis, R.N.

remembered that Miss Fitzgerald was sent overseas to serve with the British Expeditionary Forces as an Edith Cavell Memorial Nurse.

She is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Training School for Nurses, of Baltimore; she was at one time connected with the school at Bellevue; she was superintendent of the City Hospital of Wilkes Barre. Following her service as the Edith Cavell Nurse, she assumed charge of all the Red Cross nurses in the *Service de Santé* of the French Government which supplied teams of one graduate nurse and one nurse's aide to go into all the French hospitals where American troops were received. While holding this position she made over one hundred supervisory trips.

Her appointment as chief nurse of the American Red Cross Commission for Europe was made in May, 1919. Miss Fitzgerald, during her service, has been decorated by the Italian government for distinguished service. She was also decorated with the British Royal Red Cross at Buckingham Palace in June, 1919, for her services with the British Expeditionary Forces.

In the plans for the international reorganization of the Red Cross, the nursing department is acknowledged to be one of the most important. Miss Fitzgerald is especially qualified professionally for these new duties, and has the advantage of speaking a number of foreign languages so fluently that she will be able to grasp the nursing problems in a number of foreign countries without the aid of interpreters.

NURSES JOINING LABOR UNIONS

Miss Dock, editor of the Foreign Department, has given briefly an outline of the movement among British nurses who are affiliating with the Labor Party. Reports have reached this office of similar action on the part of some of our members, both in San Francisco and Chicago. At a time of such general disturbances the world over in economic conditions, we do not feel inclined to take an attitude of opposition to such a movement, but it seems a great contradiction to our professional ideals for our nurses to identify themselves with the labor party in this country.

Conditions with us are not the same as they are in England. We are free to organize in our own way. We have accomplished much in the uplift of nursing through such organizations. Nurses can fix their own prices, and they have always done so, through their alumnae organizations; at the present time we cannot see in just what way affiliation with labor unions will benefit us.

We understand that dissatisfaction with conditions which the English nurses had to endure during the war is largely responsible

for the movement there, and the seeming lack of proper appreciation of our own government for the kind of service our women have rendered during this war, makes one feel less critical of whatever action nurses may take. It seems, however, most deplorable to place the work of the nurse, which is the care of the sick, alleviation of suffering, the protection of little children, in the same category as the making of shirt-waists, or the manufacture of shoes. In a profession, the worker is pledged to consider the welfare of those being served, before his own selfish interests.

Until the country becomes readjusted to a more normal condition, our advice to nurses everywhere is to go quietly on about their business, and keep steady. We cannot tell just what the future is to bring until the question of Health Insurance is threshed out, and until the movement of the Social Unit Organization has been more fully tried. We must do our part in this work of readjustment, but we must remember that through it all, the sick and the dying must be cared for, and the most important part of public health work rests in our hands.

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION

Illinois: Copies of the new Illinois bill, which became a law the latter part of June, have only recently reached this office. This new bill is a compromise with certain members of the medical profession who were opposed to the former law. In some ways, however, the nurses were able through the Department of Registration and Education to make very definite improvements in this new bill.

The original law contained no preliminary educational requirement. The new bill contains a minimum standard of preliminary education of one year of high school. We understand that practically none of the good schools in the State accept as low a preliminary standard as one year of high school. Another point in which the nurses won out was in the requirement that no nurses could be registered unless they were twenty-two years of age. They lost in the length of the course being reduced from three years to two, but here again, the schools are perfectly free to fix the length of training as much above the law requirement as they choose, and many are continuing on the three-year basis. The opposition failed in its efforts to register nurses at twenty years, to have a shorter course than two years, and to obtain two grades of nurses.

It will be noticed that this bill does not state what the personnel shall be of the board of examiners. This is a matter which seems to be left in the hands of the Department of Registration and Education of the State, and at the present time there is a committee of nurses, as formerly, which has been appointed to conduct examinations.

HOW SHALL WE ADVERTISE?

We have been advocating through our pages more liberal advertising as a means of obtaining desirable pupils in the training schools. We know from letters which come into this office, that the attention of many well qualified young women is being turned toward our profession through advertisements, and by the liberal distribution of nursing literature.

That there are always those who take advantage of a suggestion in an undesirable way, we know, but it was something of a shock to see an advertisement in one of the most influential newspapers of the country, for young women to enter a training school for nurses, with this engaging sentence: "This is a splendid chance for those now engaged in domestic service or office work to improve their position in life."

What the nursing profession needs to-day is women of a higher education. While there may be an occasional exception, women engaged in domestic service, important as it is, have not had, on general principles, the amount of preliminary education necessary for the modern nurse. Of course, there are training schools *and* training schools, but we think it is a pity to offer nursing as an inducement to improve her position to a type of woman who is not educationally qualified to meet the requirements of the very best in the nursing field.

Let it be known all over the country that candidates for nursing schools must be educated women, in order to measure up to the demands that are being made upon the nurse of to-day. There are many women in business and clerical positions who are qualified educationally for admission to our best training schools, but we wonder if the advertisement we refer to would impress them as offering improvement in their positions.

We approve of training schools advertising, stating quite plainly what they have to offer in the way of nurse education, but making it plain that the kind of young woman needed in the nursing field to-day is one who has had substantial educational advantages, in addition to the background of good home training.

AN ADVANCE OF SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

We regret exceedingly having to close the year of 1919 with the announcement of an increase in the JOURNAL subscription price. Having carried the magazine through the war, having been able to meet the increased cost of paper, the government zone regulation, and increased wage of our office workers and the printing staff, we had

supposed that with the signing of the Armistice, cost of manufacture would decrease, and that we could have continued at the same price to our subscribers that we have been able to maintain since the JOURNAL came into existence. But in order to meet the last increase in the cost of printing, which is now universal over the country, and fulfill our obligations, we are obliged to ask each of our subscribers to pay four and one-sixth cents additional for each magazine, or an advance of fifty cents a year in the subscription price. This means that those associations that have been subscribing to the JOURNAL with the payment of their alumnae dues for \$1.50, will for the coming year pay \$2.00; that the clubs of twenty new names, the former price for which was \$1.75, will now pay \$2.25; and individual subscribers will each send us \$2.50, with fifty cents additional for foreign postage, which includes Canada.

The JOURNAL has never been more popular than it is at the present time with the nurses of the country. Its subscription list steadily increases, the volume of material for publication is far in excess of what we are able to use, although we are always in need of papers descriptive of the new methods and ideas in nursing. A very important part of the JOURNAL'S revenue is derived from our advertising, and the members of the American Nurses' Association, every one of whom is equally an owner of the magazine with every other member, can help very materially in keeping its cost on a reasonable basis by patronizing those firms that advertise in our pages. In other words, it is good business to help promote the JOURNAL'S financial success, because it means a bigger and a better magazine.

During the month of December, individual subscriptions will be received at the old rates. No new organization subscriptions will be accepted for less than \$2.00. There are a larger number of expirations in the month of December than at any other time, and such subscribers are advised to send their renewals before the end of the month in order to have the advantage of the old rate.

HOW TO REMIT MONEY TO THE MEMORIAL FUND

It has been decided, because of the amount of bookkeeping involved in receiving, banking and forwarding contributions to the Memorial Fund, that THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING shall act as treasurer. All checks and money orders should be made payable to THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, and sent to 19 West Main Street, Rochester, N. Y., accompanied by a letter of instruction stating that it is for the Memorial Fund, by whom the money is sent, whether to be credited to the sender, to an organization, or to some other person. A specially prepared receipt will be immediately mailed to that

person from the JOURNAL office, and acknowledgments will also be made through the pages of the JOURNAL.

Some of our contributors are making checks payable to the editor-in-chief or the assistant editor, not knowing just how the JOURNAL is responsible for this work. While checks made out in this personal way are taken care of in the same manner, it is just as safe to use the name THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING for checks or money orders. All such checks have to be properly endorsed. The money is being held as a special account in our regular bank, and will not be transferred until instruction has been received from the committee having the matter in charge. The name "The Memorial Fund" seems to have been adopted by common consent.

RANK FOR NURSES

Now that General Pershing has taken his stand with the nurses in contending that rank is essential to the enforcement of authority and that there is a vast difference between giving an order and having it carried out, and now that the American Legion at its National Convention in Minneapolis has unanimously endorsed Rank for Nurses, it should not be difficult for State Committees on Rank to bring their hitherto unpersuaded and unpledged Congressmen around.

OUR OLD-YOUNG MEMBER

As our frontispiece in this Christmas number of the JOURNAL, we are giving our readers a recent picture of our old-young member in organization life,—Mary E. P. Davis. Twenty years ago, at this time, Miss Davis, as chairman of the Committee to establish a nursing journal for our national association, was busy interviewing publishers, and building up a prospective subscription list. That the JOURNAL was on a sound financial basis when it was started, is due to her efforts more than to those of any other person.

She is to-day just as busy. During the war she acted as an examiner of Red Cross classes and for the past three years she has been corresponding secretary of the Massachusetts State Association, which is not an honorary position, but one requiring a great deal of work. Miss Davis performs these duties with the vigor and interest of a youthful person and makes her way in and out of Boston in all kinds of weather and without being puzzled by the mazes of the subway system. She is an inspiration and a delight, as she has always been, and we hope the JOURNAL's twentieth year will find her still occupying her post of usefulness and honor.